HIT

מכון טכנולוגי חולון
Holon Institute of Technology

Internationalization Strategy
2018-2025

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

CONTENT

President's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce HIT Holon Institute of Technology's internationalization strategic plan for the period of 2018-2025.

HIT is an academic institution of higher education that was established in 1969. Originally part of the Tel Aviv University, it became an independent public academic institution in 1999.

HIT trains the next generation of scientists, engineers, designers, instructional technology experts and technology managers.

Fully accredited by the Israeli Council for Higher Education (CHE), it is entitled to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees (Bachelor's and Master's degrees, respectively).

HIT's academic body nurtures tight connections with the industry, develops innovative teaching technologies and is extensively involved in the community. These vast collaborations, both at the national and international levels, are embedded in up-to-date academic materials and workshops. Together with the industry, research topics and final projects are done in countless fields, tackling 21st century real-life challenges.

In addition, HIT is equipped with state-of-the-art theoretical and applied research facilities, unconventional and forward-thinking labs and multidisciplinary research centers. This unique academic approach is the result of both in-house independent work and an international network of collaborations. We successfully provide our students with multidisciplinary knowledge and original analytical thinking, encouraging and cultivating excellence.

" We believe that education is a right, not a privilege, and equal opportunity to all is the key to a prosperous society. "

Eduard Yakubov
Prof. Eduard Yakubov, President

The Institute's Vision

Higher education institution which copes with the 21st century industrial and social challenges

Incubator for new generations of scientists, engineers, designers and technology experts

Technological entrepreneurship by staff and students

To be an outstanding academic institution, scientific-technological and multidisciplinary, unique among other institutions of higher education in Israel, combining outstanding and dynamic academic instruction alongside applied research and development, in continuous collaboration with and for the benefit of society, industry and the environment.

Realizing this vision will allow HIT's graduates to successfully integrate into their fields of expertise, contributing to the society as a whole, and will brand the city of Holon as an international level academic city.

Current International Status

In its 2015-2025 strategic plan, the internationalization objectives were defined as follow:

" The institute will establish, expand and strengthen existing relations in research, development and academic teaching with leading academic institutions in Israel and abroad. Through its Research, Development and External Relations (RDE) Authority, the institute will support and encourage its faculties' R&D, as well as encourage staff and students to participate in national and international projects, exchange programs, scientific publications and comprehensive collaborations with international academia. "

The faculty of design was the first to be active in the international scene, decades ago, while the rest of HIT's international activity was mainly focused on R&D collaborations. In the last couple of years, a rapidly increasing number of international collaborations between HIT's faculty staff and foreign academic institutions has been taking place. In order to encourage and accelerate HIT's internationalization process, the institute took the strategic decision to dedicate an exponentially growing amount of resources to the process.

HIT's academic staff has been actively involved in large international grant applications (partial list):

HIT joined the ERASMUS+ program in 2015. It has engaged in winning staff and student mobility programs in 12 European countries. While students understand the positive academic impact and the opportunity that student exchange represents, HIT's academic staff leverages mobility to launch new international workshops, programs and other R&D initiatives.

The Research, Development and External Relations (RDE) Authority is in charge of promoting and developing HIT's international collaborations and activities, in accordance with its 2015-2025 strategic plan.

In order to efficiently manage HIT's role in the international arena, and as a results of the rapidly growing activity, the International Office was established in September 2016 and new complementary functions were created within each faculty to support the process. In addition, the RDE Authority coordinates its actions directly with HIT's President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and regularly consults with the Deans.
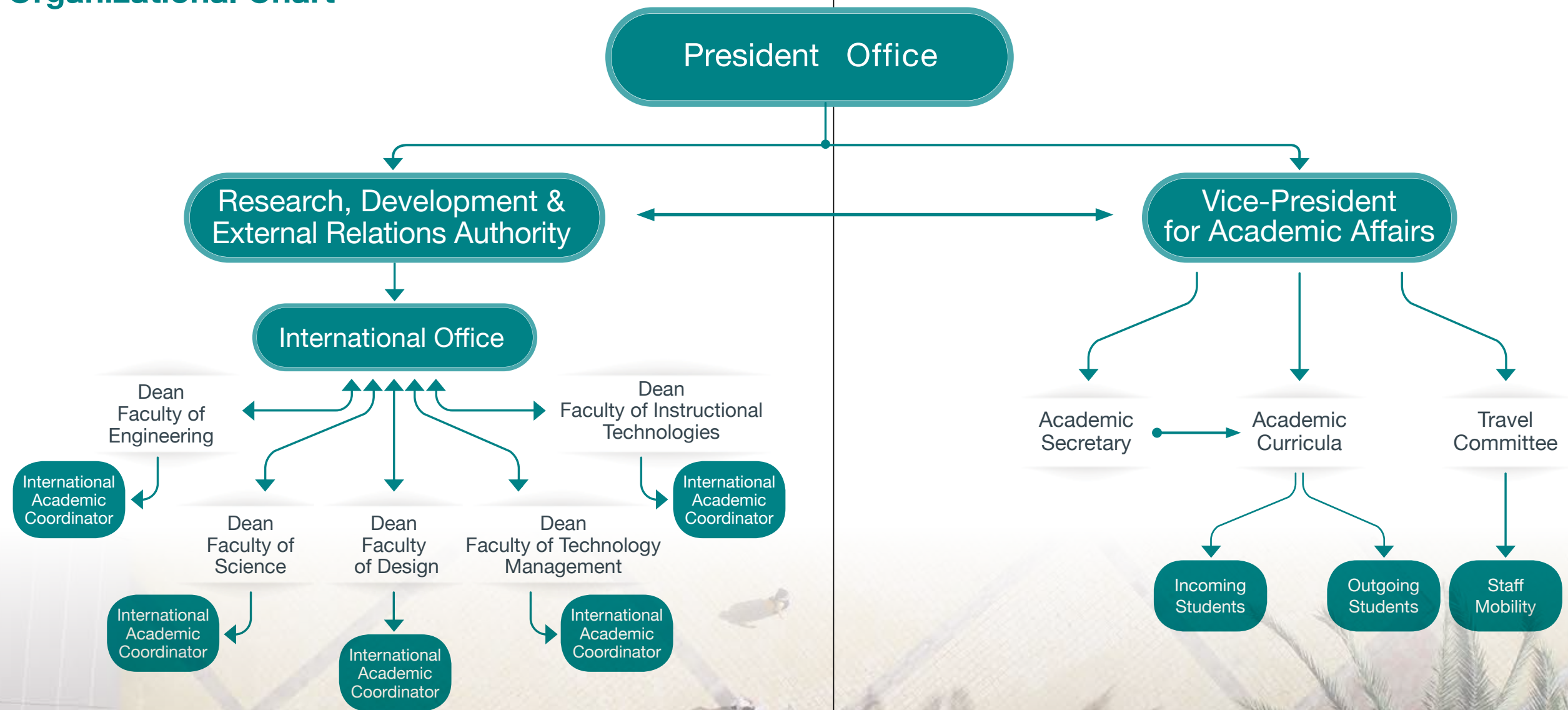
While international consortiums and grant applications are the expertise of the RDE Authority, the International Office at HIT is in charge of leveraging already existing partnerships, promoting new international academic collaborations, developing international academic programs and workshops, encouraging students and staff exchanges, and ERASMUS+ students and staff mobility. Visits on campus of foreign academics, researchers and foreign officials such as ambassadors and embassies' delegates - are coordinated by the International Office in close collaboration with the President's Office. In addition, the RDE Authority assigned one of its staff to coordinate all capacity building projects.

International relations can also be the result of professional contacts between HIT's personnel and representatives from world-wide institutions: personal connections, participation in exhibitions, conferences, invited speeches and presentations, workshops, fairs and other international events, direct inquiries to/from HIT's staff (both academic and administrative) etc.The RDE Authority and the International Office assist in the characterization and institutionalization of these relations, from signing the MoU (or other relevant agreement) to its implementation and launching the collaboration between the institutes.

Organizational Chart

President Office

Research, Development &
External Relations Authority

Vice-President
for Academic Affairs

International Office

Dean
Faculty of
Engineering

Dean
Faculty of Instructional
Technologies

Academic
Secretary

Academic
Curricula

Travel
Committee

International
Academic
Coordinator

International
Academic
Coordinator

Dean
Faculty of
Science

Dean
Faculty
of Design

Dean
Faculty of Technology
Management

Incoming
Students

Outgoing
Students

Staff
Mobility

International
Academic
Coordinator

International
Academic
Coordinator

International
Academic
Coordinator

Responsibility of the International Academic Coordinators:
- Support ECTS and English taught course adaptation
- Incoming & Outgoing students' screening
- Incoming & Outgoing students' academic advisers
- Incoming students academic 1st point of contact

Internationalization Vision

"*HIT's internationalization vision is to become a significant international player in the technological & design research and academic arena.*"

This vision places HIT's reputation for quality and excellence in teaching, R&D creation and knowledge / tech- transfer at the core of the institute's activities.

Empowering our international activities, will create a much broader multinational R&D and teaching collaboration, increasing HIT's worldwide reputation.

Goals

1
Become a magnet for talented and creative minds to join our ever-growing international R&D and academic teaching network

2
Joining forces with leading international industries and top academic tech-transfer offices worldwide, converting academic research into real life applications

3
Expanding HIT's multidisciplinary approach through multinational and multicultural academic activities by initiating joint programs, courses, workshops and projects

4
Offering a significant academic portfolio and administrative support to international students

5
Encouraging HIT's academic and administrative staff and students to take an active role in the internationalization process of the institute, in particular by participating in international exchange programs

6
Increasing HIT's visibility in the international arena

2018-2025

Strands of Activity

1 **Become a magnet for talented and creative minds to join our ever-growing international R&D and academic teaching network:**

- Increasing the number of strategic partnerships with selected academic institutions;
- Maintaining the current and applying for new mobility grants under national, bi-national and multinational programs;
- Encouraging faculties and departments to establish and broaden academic and professional partnerships and networks;
- Engaging elite academic institutions in joint R&D initiatives and projects, especially in large international R&D grants;
- Promoting the recruitment and hiring of visiting professors from abroad to effectively strengthen HIT's global reach.

2 **Joining forces with leading international industries and top academic tech-transfer offices worldwide, converting academic research into real life applications:**

- Forming and enhancing strong connections with key external stakeholders (e.g. academia, industries, social and governmental organizations) to promote and fund international knowledge/tech transfer;
- Collaborating with international high technology companies in order to join forces in ground-breaking international R&D initiatives and projects;
- Addressing strategic global challenges (e.g. ageing, special needs, renewable energy, cyber security) by forming international multidisciplinary excellence centers;
- Inviting key industrial opinion leaders and entrepreneurs to take part in international academic symposiums, conferences, workshops and teaching.

3 **Expanding HIT's multidisciplinary approach by multinational and multicultural academic activities, by initiating joint programs, courses, workshops and projects:**

- Creating unique multinational academic activities (e.g. courses, workshops, hackathons) designated primarily for multidisciplinary research areas in which different cultural background and approach can contribute significantly;
- Encouraging HIT's staff and students to contribute to multinational and multicultural academic activities;

- Empowering HIT's staff to form international multidisciplinary working groups and to apply for unique grants to fund research, conferences, symposiums etc.

4 **Offering significant academic portfolio and administrative support to international students:**

- Enriching HIT-English-spoken Bachelor's and Master's degree courses and workshops;
- Collaborating with our academic partners to create an acceptable and standardized system for recognition and converting courses grades and academic credit points;
- Encouraging faculties and departments to establish unique international experiences (e.g. internships, summer schools);
- All faculties are encouraged to offer joint or double degree study programs with foreign partner universities;
- Increasing the number of exchange agreements with partner universities, focusing on co-funding programs for student exchange;
- Considering grants for outstanding international students;
- The International Office at HIT serves to provide non-academic advisory and counseling services, including visa-related issues etc.;
- Nominating an academic staff member as international student exchange referent in each faculty;
- Recruiting additional administrative personnel to focus solely on student exchange;
- Promoting the integration of international staff and students by means of welcome events, networking activities etc.;
- Verifying end-to-end English-based communication for basic procedures concerning academic and administrative information, enrollment and registration to courses and social activities inside campus;
- Developing HIT's English website to serve as a gateway to the institutional international activities, including research, academic and administrative information;
- Accelerating admission processes to allow a transparent, efficient and convenient enrollment for international students;

- Involving academic and administrative key figures in order to remove barriers that may limit HIT's capability to recruit international students.

5 **Encouraging HIT's academic and administrative staff and students to take an active role in the internationalization process of the institute, in particular by participating in international exchange programs:**

- Increasing the number of exchange agreements with partner universities, focusing on co-funding exchange programs;
- Forming support system for staff exchange (academic and administrative) in order to facilitate international activity and commitment to the internationalization process;
- Recommending to the institute's Academic

Excellence Committee to take into its consideration staff engagement in the internationalization process;
- Each faculty will determine the desired skills its students should acquire to be best qualified for an international environment;
- Collaborating with our academic partners to create an acceptable and standardized system for recognition and converting courses grades and academic credit points;
- All faculties are encouraged to offer joint or double degree study programs with foreign partner universities;
- Ensuring at least one time period in all Bachelor's and Master's degree programs for students to go abroad without having to study longer;
- Encouraging students to participate in international and multicultural events;
- Building frameworks for short visits of students abroad under joint R&D international projects;
- Promoting international collaboration in academic

final projects with respect to both tutors/supervisors and students in Israel and abroad;
- Considering grants for outstanding students to represent HIT in international activities (e.g. conferences, workshops, exchange programs);
- The International Office at HIT serves to provide non-academic advisory and counseling services, including visa-related issues etc.;
- Nominating an academic staff member as international student exchange referent in each faculty;
- Recruiting additional administrative personnel to focus solely on student exchange.

6 **Increasing HIT's visibility in the international arena:**

- Initiating and hosting international academic events at HIT with respect to conferences, symposiums,

workshops etc;
- Encouraging and rewarding HIT's staff for initiating significant international academic activities (e.g. R&D projects, joint programs and courses);
- Supporting HIT's staff for publishing papers and presenting their research and creation achievements in international events;
- Facilitating international networking for faculty staff members while encouraging them to use designated funds for this purpose, as well as mobility grants;
- Assisting designers and artists to represent HIT and present their academic work in highly ranked international exhibitions;
- Motivating prominent academic staff to represent HIT in international professional and popular media;
- Promoting the establishment of virtual platforms for international conferences, workshops and supporting multi-institutional online courses.

Measures of Success

In order to assess the progress in the implementation process of its Internationalization Strategy, the following parameters were set for quantity and quality evaluation of success:

- Increasing the number of bilateral strategic partnerships with selected academic institutes by at least 5 institutes per year.

- Participating in existing and joining new international mobility frameworks; wining funds for mobility with at least 3 new institutes per year.

- By 2020, all faculties should be able to offer at least one full academic semester in English, and by 2025 all faculties will be able to offer any incoming student a comprehensive English-taught course catalogue.

- Increasing the number of outgoing students by 10 students per year, aiming at 100 outgoing students annually by 2025.

- Increasing the number of incoming students by 5 students per year, aiming at 70 incoming students annually by 2025.

- Supporting the growth of joint academic activities by increasing the number of incoming and outgoing staff by 3% a year; holding at HIT at least 3 international workshops and organizing 7 international conferences/exhibitions annually.

- Elevating the total amount of international research and development funds, in all channels, to finance international joint projects by 10% a year.

Key partners 2018:

Austria · France · Japan · Portugal · The Netherlands
Brazil · Germany · Latvia · Romania · Ukraine
China · Greece · Lithuania · Russia · United Kingdom
Czech Republic · Hungary · Mexico · Spain · USA
Canada · India · Macedonia · Switzerland · Uzbekistan
Estonia · Italy · Poland · Taiwan

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JOIN OUR SUCCESS

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